Allocation for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 (For Common Schemes For SCs/STs)

Rs. in crores

Sl. No.	Scheme	Allocation 1996-97	1997-98
1.	Post Matric Scholarship	149.00	65.00
2.	Coaching and Allied	3.00	3.00
3.	Book Banks	3.60	3.60
4.	National Overseas Scholarship	4.90	4.90
5.	Upgradation of merit	1.00	1.00
6.	NSFDC	65.00	96.00
7.	SCDC	30.00	45.00
	TOTAL	256.50	218.50

Evaluation of the work of CSIR

*509. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the work of the CSIR is evaluated; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating to appoint an Expert Committee to evaluate the work of the CSIR and to suggest proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) There is a well defined system laid down for evaluation of work of CSIR which is serving a useful purpose. Review and evaluation of work is done centrally, discipline-wise and locally at the Laboratory/Institute level in a comprehensive manner.

Centrally, the CSIR Society; Standing Committee of Parliament on Science and Technology and the Advisroy Board monitor and evaluate the work. The CSIR Society meets atleast once in a year under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India who is also the ex-officio President of CSIR, with a view to reviewing the progress and performance of CSIR to give the policy direction to the Governing Body of CSIR, to give the approve the annual report and yearly accounts of CSIR. The Advisory Board (consisting of Eminent Scientists/Technologists/Industrialists an Social Scientists as members appointed by the President, CSIR among other members) conducts periodic review of specific R&D areas and Laboratories.

For assessing performance and progress discipline-wise of various multi-Laboratory projects there are five Technical Advisory Boards appointed in each of the following areas:

(i) Chemical Sciences and Technology

(ii) Biological Sciences and Biotechnology

(iii) Engineering Science and Technology including Electronics and computers

(iv) Material Sciences and Technology, and

(v) Physical, Earth and Marine Sciences.

Further, for micro-level monitoring and evaluation of work each laboratory has a Research Council which consists of five eminent external experts, among others, as its members. The Research Council advises and recommends on the formulation of research programmes of the Laboratory keeping the Five Year Plans and national priorities in view and conducts periodic review of the research activities, assesses the progress of the research programmes and advises on future directions.

Closure of Mines of the Hindustan Copper Limited

*510. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally taken a decision to close down some of the mines of the Hindustan Copper Limited;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the fate of the employees has been considered and if so, the total losses suffered by loss-making units of HCL

(d) the details of the efforts made to revive those units; and

(e) the reasons for failure in not reviving those units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As the mining operations at Mosaboni mines are highly uneconomical and the Company is incurring heavy losses in operating these mines, the Board of Directors of HCL has, in principle, approved the proposal for closure of Mosaboni mines and the Company has sought permission from the Government for closure under Section 25(6) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Considering the interest of employees, Hindustan Copper Limited has been asked to draw up a scheme for rehabilitation/ relocation of the workers who would be affected in the event of closure of the mines. During the year 1995-96, the Ghatshila Unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines suffered a loss of Rs. 44.32 crores out ot which Mosaboni mines accounted for a loss of Rs. 28.37 crores. The loss incurred by the Ghatshila Unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines during the year 1996-97 is estimated to be in the region of around Rs. 50 crores.

(d) & (e) In order to imprve its financial condition, the Company has attempted a number of measures which include reduction of jnventory level, improvement in norms of consumption, recovery and productivity and reduction of administrative expenses.

The mining operation in Mosaboni Mines are now underway at a depth of 1.2 KM and mining at this depth has become costly because of the increased cost ot pumping, hoisting and ventilation. The developed and proven ore body for regular mining operation has also almost been exhausted and despite attempts made by the Company to reduce cost of production, the mining operations at Mosaboni remain highly uneconomical.

मध्य प्रदेश के देवभोग क्षेत्र में उत्खनन हेतु अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय टेंडर

*511. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के देवभोग क्षेत्र में हीरे तथा अन्य मूल्यवान पत्थरों के उत्खनन के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय टेंडर आमंत्रित किए गए है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किन-किन कंपनियों के टेंडर प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(ग) देवभोग में उत्खनन की प्रक्रिया वर्तमान में किस चरण पर है तथा भावी योजना क्या है;

(घ) क्या विदेशी उत्खनन कंपनियों के मुकाबले देश की कंपनियों के मुकाबले देश की कंपनियों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य): (क) 2 मई, 1994 को विख्यात राष्ट्रीय समाचार पत्रों में एक विज्ञापन छपा था और मध्य प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा विश्व के प्रमुख औद्योगिक देशों के दूतावासों को पत्र भेजे गए थे, जिनमें ख्याति प्राप्त भारतीय कंपनियां और भारत में निगमित/पंजिकृत अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कंपनियों से उनकी विशेज्ञता, तकनीकी शक्ति, वित्तीय संसाधनों और प्रथम स्तर के हीरा भंडारों के पूर्वेक्षण की उनकी योजना तथा पूर्वी मध्य प्रदेश में दूसरे स्तर के खनन प्रक्रिया और विपणन के लिए सम्पूर्ण विवरण सहित आवेदन पत्र मांगे गये थे।

इस विज्ञापन के उत्तर में भारत और विदेशों से 23 कंपनियों/व्यक्तियों से आवेदन प्राप्त हुए थे जिन्होंने इस कार्यकलाप में रुचि दिखाई थी। राज्य सरकार ने एक उच्च अधिकार प्राप्त समिति का गठन किया जो मूल्यांकन के मानदण्डों के बारे में निर्णय करेगी।

17 जून, 1994 को समिति ने विभिन्न आवेदन पत्रों की जांच की और निम्नलिखित 5 पार्टियों को विस्तृत विचार विमर्श के लिए सूचीबद्ध किया।

(1) सीआरए एक्सप्लोरेशन लि. मेलबोर्न आस्ट्रेलिया (सीआरए)

(2) आस्टन माइनिंग इण्डिया लि. (एएमआईएल)

(3) डी बीर्यस सेन्टनरी एजी (डीबीयर्स)

(4) राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम (एनएमडीसी)

(5) रिलायंस इण्डस्ट्रीज लि.

30 जुलाई, 1994 को मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने कंपनियों को सूचीबद्ध करने के बारे में समिति की शिफारिस को मंजूरी देते हुए आरंभिक तौर पर निर्णय लिया। सितम्बर, 1994 में मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने पूर्वी मध्य प्रदेश में हीरा और एलेक्जेन्ड्राई भंडारों के बारे में पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस पर एक रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की और उस पर भारत सरकार का अनुमोदन चाहा।

(1) डीबीयर्स (इण्डिया) प्रोस्पोटिंग लि. के पक्ष में 17300 वर्ग कि.मी. क्षेत्र में हीरे के लिए पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस देने की अनुमति।